

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
H329, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John B. Larson
Democratic Caucus Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
202A Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Majority Whip Clyburn, and Caucus Chairman Larson:

Prior to House consideration of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (HIRE Act) (P.L. 111-147), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid reached a written agreement with Speaker Pelosi and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James L. Oberstar to correct the inequitable distribution of funding for two highway programs – the Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) and the National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement (Corridor) programs – under the bill. Senate Majority Leader Reid committed to make every effort to pass this corrective legislation in the next few weeks and, based on the strength of this commitment, the House passed the HIRE Act on March 4, 2010. Since enactment of the HIRE Act, the House has passed legislation on two separate occasions correcting the distribution of these highway funds to ensure that every State receives an equitable share of PNRS and Corridor highway funding. However, we understand that the Senate has not acted on the legislation because of objections from one or more *Democratic* Senators. ***As Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, we urge you to make every effort to ensure that the Senate honors the commitments that it made to the House pursuant to the Reid-Pelosi-Oberstar agreement.***

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L. 109-59) established two major discretionary programs – the PNRS and Corridor programs. The HIRE Act extends these programs and provides them with a total of \$932 million in funding through December 31, 2010. However, the HIRE Act distributes this funding among only the States that received fiscal year 2009 PNRS or Corridor program earmarks. This distribution results in four States receiving 58 percent of the funding and 21 States receiving nothing. Such an inequitable distribution of highway funding is unacceptable to our States and Districts.

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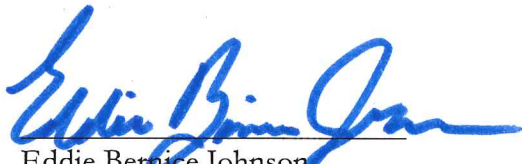
Members of the House repeatedly raised concerns with this unfair distribution of highway funding during consideration of the HIRE Act. However, the urgent need to pass the legislation did not allow sufficient time to modify the distribution of this funding. On February 26, 2010, Senate Majority Leader Reid reached a written agreement with Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Oberstar to amend the distribution of PNRs and Corridor program funding so that each State receives a share of the funds equal to the share it had received of all highway formula funds during fiscal year 2009. We believe this is a fair compromise, and we strongly support these provisions.

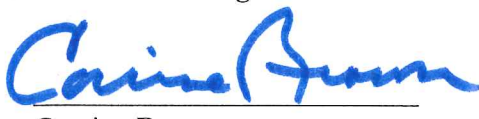
To date, the House has passed legislation, the Surface Transportation Extension Modification Act of 2010, on two separate occasions correcting the distribution of these highway funds to ensure that every State receives an equitable share of PNRs and Corridor program funding. See section 9 of H.R. 4853, as passed by the House on March 17, 2010, and section 9 of H.R. 4915, as passed by the House on March 24, 2010. However, the Senate has not acted on the legislation because of objections from one or more Democratic Senators. Enacting the modification in the coming weeks is critical because these programs provide funding for fiscal year 2010 and States need these funds to appropriately plan their summer construction seasons and ensure that the funds are obligated prior to October 1, 2010.

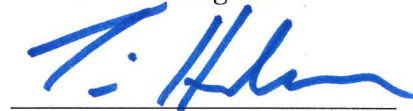
Enclosed are a copy of the February 26, 2010 letter from Senate Majority Leader Reid and state-by-state highway funding distribution tables prepared by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

We urge you to make every effort to ensure enactment of the Surface Transportation Extension Modification Act of 2010, honoring the commitments made to the House pursuant to the Reid-Pelosi-Oberstar agreement.

Sincerely,

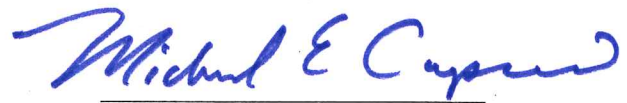

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Tim Holden
Member of Congress


John A. Boccieri
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



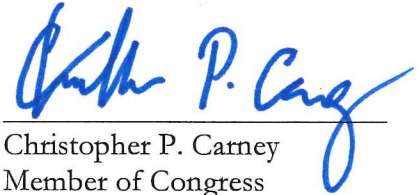
Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress



Heath Shuler
Member of Congress



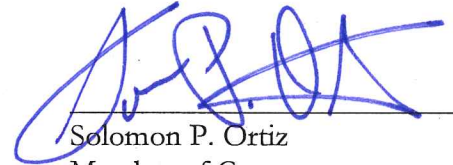
Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress



Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress



Steve Kagen
Member of Congress



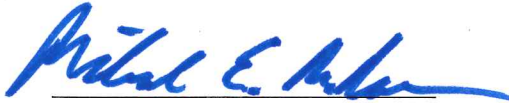
Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress



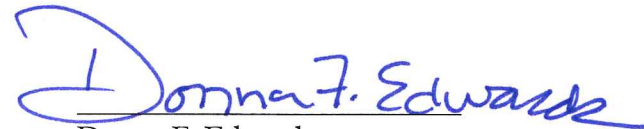
Mark H. Schauer
Member of Congress



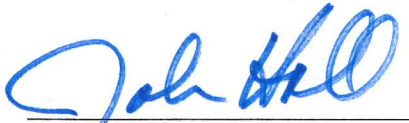
Harry Teague
Member of Congress



Michael E. McMahon
Member of Congress



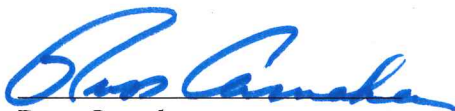
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



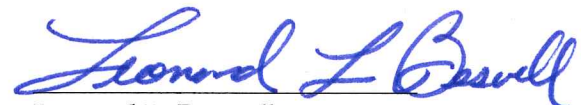
John J. Hall
Member of Congress



Jason Altmire
Member of Congress

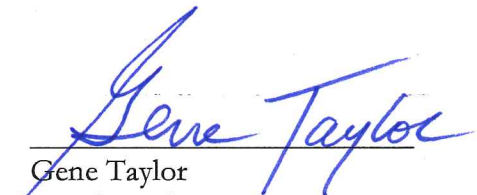


Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

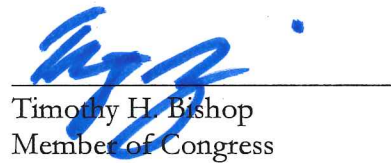



Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress

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Gene Taylor
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress


Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James L. Oberstar, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure